

EDITORIAL

In the next few issues of the bulletin we plan to publish articles dealing with some of the phases of beetle study which are particularly in need of attention. This will be done by means of feature articles which we have asked certain workers to write. Such subjects as the following will be covered:

1. Groups of beetles needing revising.
2. Genotypes of Coleoptera.
3. Larvae of Coleoptera.
4. The genitalia of beetles and technique for their study.
5. Wing venation and folding patterns of Coleoptera.
6. Bionomics of beetles, and methods of studying bionomics.
7. Color patterns in beetle taxonomy.
8. Comparative morphology of beetles.
9. Geographical distribution of beetles.

It is the thought of the editor that the proportion of work done on simple routine descriptions of new species far outweighs the work done on these other phases of study. By such a series of articles bringing to the attention of the Coleopterist the need of more comprehensive studies, more emphasis might be exerted along these lines.

Whereas the Coleopterists perhaps have more work ahead of them in the way of pure descriptions than do the workers in most other groups, they have been prone to overlook comprehensive reviews of the work already done. In the rush of cataloguing and describing, many features are omitted even in pure morphology. For instance, very little use is made of wing venation, and only recently has the structure of the genitalia been considered. Hundreds of species are described each year without thought of the larval form. True, this is due to circumstance to a large degree. By that I mean lack of time,

facilities and means of publishing. The fact remains, however, that the taxonomy of beetles is rapidly getting out of hand simply because of this mass of uncorrelated, purely external morphological descriptions. New species are described and placed in genera which have no genotype designated and are poorly defined.

It is hoped that by means of these articles, some interest will be kindled in these subjects where it is now lacking, and serve to bring to the attention of the neophyte, especially, the need for this work.

What about the formation of a Coleopterists' Society? This editor has received very little in the way of suggestions and indications of interest in the formation of such a society. Let's have some ideas!

R.H.Arnett, Jr.
EDITOR

SPECIAL OFFER TO FOREIGN

COLEOPTERISTS

The editor will exchange a years subscription to this Bulletin with Coleopterists living in those countries unable to send money to this country for beetles.

He desires especially specimens of OEdemeridae, Silphidae, Histeridae or any Heteromera, He prefers not to have Cuculionidae or Chrysomelidae, but will accept any lot of short series.

You may send beetles with your subscription order if you like, without previous arrangements.
